11: India G-4,5 (1960-1961) 1962 AWll Kerala AWll

India coastline, 30 per cent of the country's fish production came from the coast of Kerala. There is, however, still ample scope for increasing the output of fish. Only the fringe of the potential for off-shore fishing has been tapped up till now. Similarly, it is believed that the output of fish can also be increased considerably from the coastal fisheries without subjecting the fishing grounds to undue pressure. Introduction of mechanized fishing and better fishing gear can add considerably to fish production. However, as it is, the fishermen are the most depressed class of persons in the economy, and unemployment is at its maximum among them.

1.42 Development of fisheries is of particular importance in case of Kerala in view of the large food deficit of the State. The requirements of rice for a balanced diet could be considerably reduced if it is adequately supplemented by tapioca and fish. Tapioca by itself is not an adequate substitute for rice requirements since it lacks in proteins. However, its food value can be considerably enhanced if it is combined with a sufficient quantity of fish.

Secondary Sector

1.43 The secondary sector covers mining and industry. Mining activity is comparatively limited in Kerala in view of the meagre occurrence of minerals. During 1955-56 mining contributed only 0.6 per cent of the State Income (all-India 1%). The chief mineral asset of Kerala is the beach sand. Ilmenite is the most important variety of the beach sands. Besides some fine quality china-clay, of which there are good reserves, other items of mineral wealth of Kerala are not of any particular importance.

1.44 The industries of Kerala, both the factory[1] and the non-factory type, are marked by a low level of productivity as shown by Table 4. The main reason for this is the backwardness of technology employed as would be true of other parts of India as well. While this may not apply to the modern industries run on a large scale basis, in some of which indeed the State has been a pioneer, the overall picture of industry presented as a whole is, nevertheless, one of poor technological level. Further, during 1955-56, the organized factory industries employed 17.5 per cent of the working force in the secondary sector (9.7 lakhs) as against 21.8 per cent in India. Moreover, in both the factory and the non-factory categories, the major share of employment opportunities is monopolized by a few industries which can by no means claim to be in the forefront of modern industries.

1.45 In the non-factory sector, out of a total working force of 7.8 lakh persons, almost 50 per cent of the workers are employed in the coir industry, the foremost industry of Kerala. As in most cottage industries, the maximum degree of mechanization in coir industry never goes beyond a spinning wheel. In Malabar, even that is missing, since spinning operations are mostly carried on with hand. Similarly in the factory sector, the three major industries, viz., cashewnut, textile and coir factories which account for 64 per cent of factory employment, are entirely unmechanized.

1 Factory type of units are defined as those falling within the coverage of Section 2 in (i) and (ii) of the Factories Act, 1948. These include all those factories employing more than 20 workers as well as those employing between 10 to 20 workers, if using power.

11: India G-4, 5 (1960-1961) 1962 AW11 Kerala AW11

Cashewnut industry, by the very nature of the process involved, does not require much of capital equipment. Although the average size of cashewnut factories is about 400 workers per unit, capital requirements in the industry hardly exceed Rs. 200 per worker. Even the coir and cotton textile factories in Kerala use only the handlooms. Existence of handlooms within the precincts of textile factories is, in fact, a unique phenomenon in Kerala (especially the Malabar region). Only a dozen out of over 300 textile factories use modern equipment. Nowhere else in India can this be seen.

1.46 The contrast between a well-developed primary sector and a backward industrial sector is also brought out by comparative wage statistics for the two sectors. It has already been pointed out that in spite of a high degree of unemployment in the agricultural sector, the wage rates and average household earnings, though low, do not compare very unfavourably with the average for all-India. On the other hand, the average annual earnings of workers in factories covered by the Payment of Wages Act are only Rs. 736 per worker. As may be seen from the table below, this figure is one of the lowest in the whole of India.

AVERAGE ANNUAL EARNINGS OF FACTORY EMPLOYEES, 1956

	Rs.
Andhra	595
Assam	1,526
Bihar	1,236
Bombay	1,415
Madhya Pradesh	982
Madras	950
Orissa	947
Punjab	991
Uttar Pradesh	1,014
West Bengal	1,142
KERALA	736

SOURCE: *Statistical Abstract of India* (1957-58).

Overhead Facilities

1.47 In respect of overhead facilities, Kerala is fortunately better placed than many other parts of India. This has been the result of a progressive policy followed by the Governments of the erstwhile States of Travancore and Cochin, whose rulers took an active interest in the development of various public amenities and tried to attract industrialists from other parts of India to invest in Kerala.

1.48 In the sphere of transport, the coverage of Railways is rather limited, total route mileaghe being only 543 miles. This is, however, more than compensated by the wide network of roadways, which in spite of its many drawbacks, is superior to that in most other parts of India. The extent of road mileage per 100 square miles as well as the vehicle density in Kerala are the highest in the country. Road transport is, in general, more suited to conditions prevailing in Kerala than Railways because of the uneven nature of the terrain.

11: India G-4, 5 (1960-1961) 1962 AWII Kerala AWII

glut since the better type of plantation coffee, for which India is well known, is in demand at a premium in the continental markets. At the same time internal market, about half of which is in North India is yet to be explored. This should also be developed.

2.138 Higher production can be achieved both through higher yields and through the extension of area under coffee. Increase in cultivated area under coffee is possible by fuller utilization of the estate areas. It is estimated that there were about 21,000 acres of land at the end of 1957-58 attached to the estates which were not being utilized for coffee cultivation. These could be planted with coffee. The cost of planting coffee and bringing it to the bearing stage is about the same as that in the case of tea, that is, Rs. 2,500 per acre. The total investment required, therefore, comes to Rs. 5.2 crores, which may be provided to the growers in the form of loans and the Government and the Central Coffee Board should help farmers in securing the necessary credit. The productivity per acre can be raised to 400 lbs. per acre by better manuring, larger application of fertilizers and efficient management of the estates. Efficient management, however, could become effective only after the size of the farms has been increased to a basic minimum.

Cashewnut

2.139 Cashewnut forms the main raw material for one of the major industries of Kerala. The cashewnut industry stands in importance next only to that of coir in the Kerala economy. In view of current shortage of raw nuts, which is adversely affecting the local cashew industry, measures to supplement indigenous supply are of great importance.

2.140 Cashew is grown on a wide variety of soils—ranging from coastal sandy to laterite hill top soils. It is hardy and drought-resistant but very susceptible to frost. In 1957-58, the total area under cashew in Kerala was 109,000 acres which is about 44 per cent of the total area under cashew in the country. Of this, the former Travancore-Cochin area alone accounted for over 71 per cent (77,481 acres), the rest being in the Malabar region. The production of raw cashewnuts in 1957-58 was 68,000 tons as against 54,000 tons in 1952-53, showing an increase of 26 per cent. The area under cashewnuts during the same period increased by only 1.8 per cent.

2.141 Cashewnut, at present, is rarely grown on a plantation scale. It is grown in compounds of houses, inter-spersed with coconuts, mangoes and arecanuts, and in outlying areas which are considered unsuitable for the growth of any other crop. When grown on plantation scale, about 60 to 70 trees can be planted in an acre, but it is not rare to find as many as 200 trees per acre in certain areas of Kerala. Such congestion, however, has adverse effect on output. Consequently, current yield per acre of cashewnuts (1,400 lbs. per acre) is much lower than what it could have been, had cashewnuts been grown on plantation scale. Under good conditions and in good season an acre may even yield up to one ton.

2.142 The scope for increase in the output of cashewnuts, through increase in yields or through extension of area, seems to be rather limited in Kerala. Raw nut is a low value commodity. Manuring the trees and spending on their maintenance,

13:Thurston & Rangachari E-4, 5 (no date) 1909
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Nayar

bearers.* The Sūdra clan supplies female servants in the houses of Nambūdiris. The Vattakkād (or Chakkingal : chakku, oil press) clan, whose proper *métier* is producing gingelly or cocoanut oil with tne oil-mill, is the lowest of all, excepting, I think, the Pallichan. Indeed, in North Malabar, I have frequently been told by Nāyars of the superior clans that they do not admit the Vattakkād to be Nāyars, and say that they have adopted the honorary affix Nāyar to their names quite recently." There is some obscurity as regards the sub-divisions of the Vattakkād clan. To the north of Calicut, in Kurumbranād, they are divided into the Undiātuna, or those who pull (to work the oil-machine by hand), and the Murivechchu-ātune, or those who tie or fasten bullocks, to work the oil-machine. Yet further north, at Tellicherry and thereabouts, there are no known sub-divisions, while in Ernād, to the eastward, the clan is divided into the Veluttātu (white) and Karuttātu (black). The white have nothing to do with the expression and preparation of oil, which is the hereditary occupation of the black. The white may eat with Nāyars of any clan ; the black can eat with no others outside their own clan. The black sub-clan is strictly endogamous ; the other, the superior sub-clan, is not. Their women may marry men of any other clan, the Pallichchan excepted. Union by marriage, or whatever the function may be named, is permissible between most of the other clans, the rule by which a woman may never unite herself with her inferior being always observed. She may unite herself with a man of her own clan, or with a man of any superior clan, or with a Nambūtiri, an Embrāntiri, or any other Brāhman,

* A manchil is a conveyance carried on men's shoulders, and more like a hammock slung on a pole, with a flat covering over it, than a palanquin.